



Judd Gregg, Chairman  
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**For Immediate Release**

**September 28, 2005**

**Senate Budget Committee Chairman Gregg Joins Leadership  
In Requesting That Committee Chairmen Find Additional Savings**

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg joined Majority Leader Bill Frist and other members of the Republican Leadership in requesting that chairmen of committees that received spending reduction instructions in the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Resolution contribute to the offset efforts by recommending mandatory spending reductions above and beyond those required by the instructions. Chairmen of non-reconciled committees also were asked to review policies and programs within their jurisdictions to identify savings offsets.

“We urge you to consider additional policy changes that can be used to help contain the massive federal recovery costs associated with the recent devastating Gulf Coast hurricanes,” said Chairman Gregg and Senate leaders in a letter to the chairmen of reconciled committees. “Because these disasters have produced an unanticipated, negative impact on the budget deficit, it is imperative that the Congress get the most out of the limited federal dollars, while reducing regulatory barriers and providing incentives to allow the private sector to succeed in their efforts to rebuild the affected region.”

In a letter to chairmen of non-reconciled committees, Chairman Gregg and Senate leaders said, “regardless of what legislative vehicle is used to achieve savings, we ask that your Committee focus its attention on developing legislation that provides savings items within your jurisdiction and help make the tough choices needed to offset some of the costs of these disasters.”

[2 letters attached]

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 27, 2005

Senator Thad Cochran  
Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The devastation wrought by the recent hurricanes to our Gulf Coast states is without precedent. At this point in time, the federal cost of providing assistance, aiding in the recovery, and rebuilding in the affected areas cannot be determined.

As the President has stated, we will provide whatever resources are required to assist displaced families and rebuild the devastated region. Whatever the eventual total, these unanticipated costs clearly qualify as emergency spending and are necessary to address the human suffering, lost jobs, and destroyed infrastructure.

During past domestic disasters, Congress provided the necessary funds for relief and recovery in a fiscally responsible manner. After the 1994 Los Angeles earthquake and the 1995 Oklahoma City terrorist bombing, Congress provided the necessary funds for relief and recovery in a fiscally responsible manner. For instance, the relevant emergency supplemental appropriations bills for those disasters included \$3.2 billion (P.L. 103-211) and nearly \$16 billion (P.L. 104-19) in rescissions, respectively. We must approach this emergency funding in a similar manner.

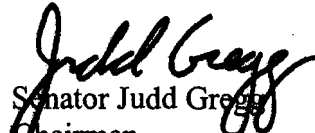
To this end, the Chairman of the Budget Committee and we have asked committee chairmen who were instructed to achieve reconciliation savings under this year's Budget Resolution and have asked them to consider policies that would increase mandatory savings beyond their instructed level. We now ask that your Committee also review the policies and programs within your jurisdiction to identify savings offsets.

With your assistance we hope to develop a strategy for speedy consideration for all authorizing committee savings proposals. In addition, other savings might be achieved through rescinding previously appropriated monies for programs that now, in light of current events, have a much lower priority.

Regardless of what legislative vehicle is used to achieve savings, we ask that your Committee focus its attention on developing legislation that provides savings items within your jurisdiction and help make the tough choices needed to offset some of the costs of these disasters.


Sincerely,

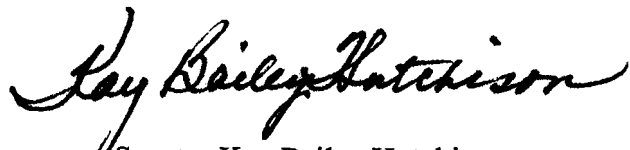
  
Senator Bill Frist  
Majority Leader

  
Senator Judd Gregg  
Chairman

  
Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Whip

  
Senator Rick Santorum  
Conference Chairman

  
Senator Jon Kyl  
Policy Chairman

  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Conference Vice Chairman

  
Elizabeth Dole  
RNSC Chair

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 27, 2005

Senator Arlen Specter  
Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary  
224 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We write to thank you for your continued efforts toward drafting a reconciliation bill that will achieve the mandatory spending reductions instructed in the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Resolution.


As you work toward this goal, we urge you to consider additional reasonable policy changes that could be used to help contain the massive federal recovery costs associated with the recent devastating Gulf Coast hurricanes. During past domestic disasters, such as the 1994 Los Angeles earthquake and the 1995 Oklahoma City terrorist bombing, Congress provided the necessary funds for relief and recovery in a fiscally responsible manner. For instance, the relevant emergency supplemental appropriations bills for those disasters included \$3.2 billion (P.L. 103-211) and nearly \$16 billion (P.L. 104-19) in rescissions, respectively. This important precedent should be applied where possible to our current efforts to help rebuild the Gulf Coast.

We are asking for your committee to contribute to the offset efforts by recommending spending reductions above and beyond those required by the reconciliation instructions.


At this point the total federal cost for the devastating hurricanes remains undetermined. What is clear, however, is that Congress needs to make tough choices to ensure that the federal response to these disasters is responsible. Because these disasters have produced an unanticipated, negative impact on the budget deficit, it is imperative that the Congress get the most out of the limited federal dollars, while reducing regulatory barriers and providing incentives to allow the private sector to succeed in their efforts to rebuild the affected region. By making these responsible choices, we remain the party of fiscal responsibility.

Again thank you for your commitment to reducing the federal deficit. We look forward to working with you on achieving that objective notwithstanding the challenges posed by these recent events.


Sincerely,



Senator Bill Frist  
Majority Leader




Senator Judd Gregg  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget




Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Whip



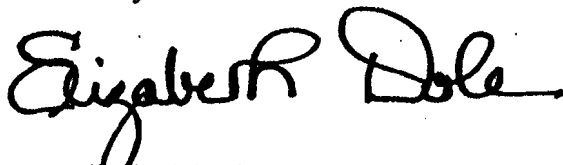
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